

REMARKS
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***Summary of Amendments Made***

The applicants' thank the examiner for consideration of their proposed amendments sent via e-mail on 25 February 2003.

Claims 1, 6, 7 and 9 have been amended and claims 2-5 and 8 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 6, 7 and 9-11 are now pending. The amendment to claim 1 incorporates the limitation of claim 8. Support for the "microemulsion" limitation of claim 1 can be found e.g. on page 9, line 16 of the specification. It is believed that no new matter has been added.

***Response to Prior Art Rejections***

It is believed that the rejections based on the prior art are now rendered moot by the present amendments. The examiner is directed to the applicants' previous response of 23 January 2002 and also to the fact that now the claims are directed toward microemulsions (the Ascione reference is a macroemulsion) and that there is no direction of guidance for the amount of shea butter used.

***Closing***

Applicants also believe that this application is in condition for allowance. However, should any issue(s) of a minor nature remain, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned at telephone number (212) 808-0700 so that the issue(s) might be promptly resolved.

Respectfully submitted,  
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
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I hereby certify that the foregoing Preliminary Amendment (4 pages total) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Services as Express Mail, Label No. EV 208799349 US, addressed to: Hon. Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Date: 22 May 2003

By: Vilma I. Fernandez  
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